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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JULY 28, 1999

APPLICATION OF

BELL ATLANTIC-VIRGINIA, INC.

CASE NO. PUC990033

To expand the local service area
of its Clover exchange to include
Sprint/Centel's Halifax and
South Boston exchanges

ORDER PRESCRIBING NOTICE

On February 23, 1999, Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc. ("BA-VA" or "the Company"), filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to the provisions of § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia. In its application BA-VA proposes to notify its Clover exchange customers of its proposal to expand their local service to include the Halifax and South Boston exchanges of Sprint/Centel ("Centel"). The application states that the customers of the Clover exchange were polled between March 17, 1998, and April 21, 1998, regarding their willingness to pay increases for local calling to Halifax and South Boston. Sixty-eight percent of those responding supported the proposal.

At that time, the Commission required Centel to conduct a cost study to allow the Commission to determine monthly rates for Extended Local Service ("ELS") from Halifax and South Boston

to Clover. Customers in Halifax and South Boston were polled regarding their willingness to pay an increase for local calling to Clover, but the surveys did not pass.

BA-VA now proposes to expand the Clover local service area to include Centel's Halifax and South Boston exchanges.

According to the proposal, Clover customers would pay a flat monthly rate to call Halifax and South Boston with no usage charge, and measured classes of service would continue to pay the same minutes of use charges that they currently pay for calls to Halifax and South Boston. There would be no monthly adder rate in addition to the monthly flat rate for regrouping as noted above. The application notes that the addition of the Halifax and South Boston exchanges would cause the Clover exchange to regroup to a higher rate class to prevent discrimination in rates between exchanges having access to the same number of weighted dial tone lines. However, these rate changes would be considerably less than those proposed and approved by the Clover customers in the previous ELS survey.

The application further states that BA-VA does not see the necessity of Centel having to reciprocate with a similar plan since the current service from the Halifax and South Boston exchanges to BA-VA's Clover exchange provides customers with both flat and measured rate service choices. BA-VA notified Centel of this application.

By subsequent filing on July 14, 1999, BA-VA proposed two separate customer notices. One notice is for its exchange only class of service customers, and the other notice is for all other customers. BA-VA represents in this filing that these notices and correspondence have been developed with input from the Commission's Division of Communications.

NOW, having considered BA-VA's application and proposed customer notices and the applicable law, the Commission is of the opinion that this matter should be docketed; that BA-VA should give notice of this application by direct mail to its customers in the Clover exchange; and that those customers should be permitted to file comments and requests for hearing. Accordingly,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- (1) This matter is docketed and assigned Case No. PUC990033.
- (2) On or before September 23, 1999, BA-VA customers who may be affected by this proposal may file with the Clerk of the Commission written comments or requests for hearing about this application. Any corporation shall be represented by Counsel in accordance with Rule 4:8 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure and shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of any comment or request for hearing on or before that deadline. Individuals may file single copies. All comments or requests for hearing shall refer to Case No. PUC990033 and shall

be filed with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218.

(3) A copy of this Order and the application shall be made available for public inspection at the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. A copy of BA-VA's application also may be obtained by contacting BA-VA's regulatory office at: Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc., P.O. Box 244, Richmond, Virginia 23218-0244.

(4) On or before August 16, 1999, BA-VA shall provide, by first-class mail, a letter, public notice and Fact Sheet to each of its Clover exchange customers. The Commission hereby approves BA-VA's suggested letters, public notices and Fact Sheets for exchange only class of service customers and for all other customers, submitted in BA-VA's July 14, 1999, filing, with the modification that, at the bottom of each "Notice of a Proposal by Bell Atlantic-Virginia to Expand the Local Service Area of the Clover Exchange," the following language be added:

A copy of the Commission's Order Prescribing Notice in Case No. PUC990033 and BA-VA's application shall be made available for public inspection at the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through

Friday. A copy of BA-VA's application also may be obtained by contacting BA-VA's regulatory office at: Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc., P.O. Box 244, Richmond, Virginia 23218-0244.

The Commission shall convene a hearing on the proposed extension of the local calling area if at least the lesser of five percent or 150 of the customers within the Clover exchange request a hearing; otherwise, the Commission may consider the application without convening a hearing.

(5) On or before September 23, 1999, BA-VA shall provide proof of the notice required above.

(6) The Commission shall convene a hearing on the proposed extension of the local calling area if at least the lesser of five percent or 150 of the customers within the Clover exchange request a hearing; otherwise, the Commission may consider the application without convening a hearing.

(7) On or before October 8, 1999, the Division of Communications shall file a report with the Commission on the number of objections to the proposal.